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Clayton L. Kuhnell

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KARLEN, James P. :
Serial No.: 10/036,845 : Group Art Unit: 3651
Filing Date: December 21, 2001 : Examiner: TRAN, K.H.
For: **STOWAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

Please amend the present application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add the following claims 2-21:

2. (new) An automated stowage and retrieval system for the selective loading or unloading of a payload comprising:

a plurality of pallet carriers contained in a matrix, the matrix being defined by a plurality of horizontal axes, including a plurality of axes extending in a first direction and a plurality of axes extending in a second direction generally perpendicular to the first direction, each of the plurality of pallet carriers being capable of supporting at least one payload and configured to slide bi-directionally along the plurality of horizontal axes, the matrix being configured to permit the plurality of pallet carriers to move throughout the matrix;